Message Text

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R 200600Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7920 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS FOR SENSER

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ILO, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 113226, B) TOKYO 6937

- 1. SUBSTANCE REF A PASSED MAY 19 TO DEPUTY VICE MINISTER OF LABOR IWATA WHO EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR DETAILED EXPLANATION OF US VIEWS AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH INGRASSIA IN GENEVA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.
- 2. IWATA AGAIN STRESSED GOJ PREOCCUPATION WITH PUBLIC SERVICE UNION ISSUE AT FORTHCOMING ILC. HE NOTED CRITICISMS OF JAPANESE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTIONS 87 AND 98 CONTAINED IN THIS YEAR'S COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPORT AND SAID THAT LARGE DELEGATION BEING FIELDED BY SOHYO AND ITS PUBLIC SECTOR AFFILIATES, EXPLOITING CRITICAL COMMENTS ON JAPAN IN EXPERTS' REPORT, WOULD MOUNT CAMPAIGN TO HAVE JAPAN PLACED ON ILO "BLACKLIST" (SIC). IWATA PREDICTED SOHYO UNIONS WILL FOCUS PARTICULARLY ON GOJ'S REFUSAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ALLOW FIREMEN TO ORGANIZE.

3. IWATA ADDED THAT IF DIET SESSION SCHEDULED TO END MAY 28 IS NOT EXTENDED, MINISTER OF LABOR ISHIDA WILL ATTEND ILC JUNE 6-8. IWATA SAID ISHIDA PERSONALLY HAS A LOT AT STAKE IN OUTCOME OF ILC DEBATE ON JAPANESE IMPLEMENTATION OF

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, SINCE IT WAS ISHIDA, IN ONE OF HIS PREVIOUS INCARNATIONS AS MINISTER OF LABOR, WHO FINALLY PERSUADED VERY RELUCTANT LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO RATIFY CONVENTION 87 IN 1965, AFTER YEARS OF DELAY.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH LABATT ON MAY 18,
JAPANESE EMPLOYER DELEGATE YOSHIMURA SAID HE EXPECTED
TO BE ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN OF SELECTION COMMITTEE AND
IN THIS CAPACITY WOULD GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO US POSITIONS
ON CRUCIAL ISSUES. YOSHIMURA EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER,
ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPACT OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES ON ILC DEBATE OVER ACCEPTANCE OF DIRECTOR
GENERAL'S REPORT.

5: GIVEN GOJ PREOCCUPATION WITH FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION ITEM, JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, WHILE SUPPORTING US POSITIONS, LIKELY TO BE EVEN MORE HESITANT THAN USUAL IN PROVIDING LEADERSHIP ON OTHER ISSUES AT ILC. SHOESMITH

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